

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Volume: 21-03  
Released: August 25, 2003  
Week Ending: August 24, 2003

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** Precipitation was more noticeable across Oregon this past week. Rainfall in areas of northeast Oregon ranged from 1.0 to nearly 1.5 inches, and rainfall in some central areas of Oregon ranged from 0.2 to nearly 0.5 inches. Western Oregon remained essentially dry. High temperatures across most of the State fell in the nineties but Rome recorded a high of 105 degrees. Areas along the coast felt cooler temperatures, with highs falling in the seventies. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, the Booth and Bear Butte fires in the Deschutes National Forest are about 20 percent contained and have consumed over 36 thousand acres. Another fire near Joseph is around 50 percent contained; its cause is believed to have been lightning.

**Field Crops:** Winter wheat harvest was winding down Statewide. The harvest of Union County spring wheat, barley, mint, third cutting of alfalfa and second cutting of grass hay continued. In Wasco County, the mustard seed harvest began and the third cutting of alfalfa was ongoing. In Malheur County, most of the third cutting of alfalfa had been baled. Irrigation water had been depleted in the Vale district. In Marion County, the mint and the sugarbeet seed harvest continued. The grass seed harvest was winding down. More rain is needed Statewide for fall tillage.

**Vegetables:** In the Willamette Valley, harvest of summer vegetables was advancing rapidly. Warm summer weather has been good for produce this year. Sweet corn looked good and was almost ready to harvest. Bush beans harvest was nearly finished. Warmer nighttime temperatures in Josephine County meant some vegetables were ripening quickly. Truck gardens were doing well in summer squash, eggplant, tomatoes, cucumber, onions and peppers.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries continued to irrigate at a rapid pace and were looking forward to the fall marketing season. Greenhouses were working with fall and winter plants. Southern Oregon Coast Easter lily growers were engaged in harvesting and planting routines that will continue until sometime in October.

**Fruit:** Summer pear harvest was complete in most of the lower Hood River Valley orchards and has begun in the mid-valley orchards. Fruit growers in the upper valley and in Wasco County prepared for harvest. Evergreen blackberry picking was at its peak in Clackamas County. Wine grape harvest should begin soon in Josephine County. Eastern Filbert Blight was recently found in four orchards in Linn and Lane counties. Hazelnut growers in those areas are asked to inspect their hazelnut trees for brown leaves that have not fallen, and then look for black pustules.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Dryland pastures did not receive much relief from the prolonged dry condition. Several pastures have entered summer dormancy. Fires broke out in Deschutes and Wallowa counties and the threat of fire remained high across the State. Supplemental feed continued. Livestock were reported to be in good condition.

**Crop Progress Week Ending 8/24/03**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
All Barley harvested (%)	89	85	80	70
Spring wheat harvested (%)	92	88	92	82
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.9	—	—

**Soil Moisture Week Ending 8/24/03**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	43	43	14	—
Subsoil (%)	44	43	13	—

**Crop Condition Week Ending 8/24/03**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	11	32	40	17	—

## WESTERN OREGON

**CLACKAMAS:** Field crop activity limited. Harvest is nearly completed and soil preparations for fall seeding have not begun. Evergreen blackberry picking at peak. Renovation of other berry fields continues. Harvest of summer vegetables advancing rapidly. Sweet corn is coming on fast. Nurseries continue irrigating at rapid pace and starting preparations for the busy fall marketing season. Most livestock are still in good condition but are receiving supplemental feed. The dryland pastures are about all in summer dormancy.

**COOS\CURRY:** Hints of seasonal change. Several days of strong breezes. Cloudy skies at weekend with some thunder. Dry weather dominated. Cranberry growers scouted fields for signs of moisture stress and damage from insects, such as cranberry girdler. Easter lily growers were engaged in harvesting and planting routines that will continue until sometime in October.

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather has been very warm this week but not unbearable. Nights are back up in the fifties and sixties, which means those nightshade plants will be ripening very quickly now. Should be harvesting wine grapes soon, depending on the varieties. Crop looks good. Blueberries were a bumper crop this year. Nuts are suffering. Very few walnuts if any. Truck gardens are doing well in sales, if traffic is an indication. Should be doing well in summer squash, eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers. Local wild blackberries are still good and full of moisture. Unusual for us this time of year; usually dried up.

**LANE:** Apples, peaches doing very well. Eastern Filbert Blight found in four orchards in Linn and Lane counties. Recommendation is that all filbert growers thoroughly inspect their orchards ASAP. Look for brown leaves that have NOT fallen and then look for the black pustules. Some strawberries and raspberries. Blueberries nearing end of harvest. Most vegetable crops in full harvest. Warm, summer weather really allowing nice produce this year.

**MARION:** Mint harvest continues. Sugarbeet seed harvest continues but should be completed within the next week. Grass seed harvest should be completed within the next few days. Hop harvest and red clover seed harvest still a couple weeks away. Fall tillage and ground preparation for fall seedings underway. Soil is dry. Pastures are dried up. Bush beans are almost finished with harvest. Sweet corn is looking good. Harvest will begin soon.

## EASTERN OREGON

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** A hail and rain storm did some damage to crops in Jefferson County (Culver to Metolius to Madras to Agency Plains) on August 5 - there was considerable damage to wheat and shredded the forage crops a bit. Morning and afternoon rain storms on August 22 caught many producers with grain still standing in the field and lots of hay down across the three central Oregon counties.

**HARNEY:** Hot and dry at the beginning of the week. Thursday evening brought scattered showers and cooler temperatures. Cattle beginning to be weaned.

**HOOD RIVER:** Summer pear harvest was completed in most lower Hood River Valley orchards and began in mid-valley orchards. Fruit growers in the upper valley prepared for harvest.

**MALHEUR:** Temperatures have moderated to the mid-nineties. Onion harvest has begun on those fields that were damaged by hail. Irrigation water has been depleted in the Vale district. Owyhee is running at "free-flow" levels. Bean harvest has begun in the Adrian area. Most alfalfa third cutting is being baled.

**UNION:** Most of the winter wheat has been harvested. Some spring wheat, barley and mint still left to harvest. Some third cuttings of alfalfa being harvested along with second cuttings of grass hay. Start of the week was the same as always (hot and dry), but a break in the weather near the end of the week brought some rainfall to isolated areas. Those areas that did get rain got a lot, temporarily raising the level of some streams and creeks several inches. However, other areas received, at best, only a trace of moisture. All in all, not a bad week in northeastern Oregon.

**WALLOWA:** Lightning storms came on Tuesday and started some fires due to the dry conditions. Friday the rain came and spread showers. Range conditions have not improved over the week. A lot more rain is needed to get things softened up enough.

**WASCO:** Several growers in the Columbia District were harvesting mustard seed crops this week. Winter wheat harvest is nearly complete. Third cutting of alfalfa hay in the Tygh Valley bottom land was underway. Cattle continue to hold their own on the dry pastures that are becoming over grazed. Watering ponds and springs continue to dry. Stone fruit crops continued to be harvested through the week, while early pear and apple crops will soon start to be picked. Fire danger is critical all over. More rain is needed for the fall seeding of grain crops.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	46	73	62	2	85	10	0.00	-0.33	0	59.92	-6.06	91	180
Crescent City	49	67	58	-2	59	-4	0.02	-0.23	2	58.67	-6.26	90	128
Florence	41	76	60	-2	69	-8	0.09	-0.26	1	75.69	-0.37	100	150
North Bend	48	66	59	-2	65	-5	0.00	-0.26	0	64.33	1.31	102	144
Tillamook	39	73	59	-1	63	0	0.00	-0.44	0	83.60	-4.47	95	168
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	45	93	69	4	136	24	0.00	-0.21	0	33.39	-9.05	79	120
Eugene	45	91	67	0	122	1	0.00	-0.28	0	40.18	-8.87	82	145
Hillsboro	45	89	67	2	119	10	0.02	-0.26	1	36.61	-0.68	98	147
McMinnville	43	92	66	0	114	2	0.02	-0.17	1	40.22	-2.73	94	152
Portland	53	87	69	2	137	7	0.03	-0.25	1	33.76	-2.22	94	147
Salem	48	90	68	2	126	10	0.00	-0.20	0	39.46	0.53	101	148
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	55	97	75	4	174	28	0.00	-0.14	0	33.40	2.53	108	108
Medford	56	99	76	5	185	31	0.00	-0.14	0	23.25	4.53	124	106
Roseburg	54	95	73	5	164	31	0.00	-0.15	0	31.79	-0.73	98	124
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	46	91	67	3	119	16	0.24	0.08	1	14.51	0.67	105	106
Heppner	49	96	71	4	152	23	0.48	0.32	1	12.10	-1.60	88	106
Hermiston	48	97	72	2	153	5	0.01	-0.08	1	7.83	-0.99	89	78
John Day	50	94	72	5	154	35	0.10	-0.15	2	11.72	-1.39	89	105
Moro	48	93	69	3	135	18	0.10	-0.04	1	10.41	-0.57	95	81
Pendleton	52	95	73	3	163	14	0.03	-0.11	1	11.39	-0.49	96	97
The Dalles	52	95	73	8	165	54	0.00	-0.14	0	13.89	1.52	112	85
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	43	92	66	5	114	27	0.28	0.14	2	7.81	-3.75	68	67
Burns	42	95	67	5	123	29	0.17	-0.01	2	8.61	-1.21	88	90
Klamath Falls	47	94	67	2	124	12	0.29	0.15	3	11.98	-1.38	90	92
Lakeview	39	91	64	0	103	2	0.03	-0.11	1	4.59	-10.89	30	48
Redmond	38	95	67	3	119	18	0.26	0.12	2	7.54	-0.90	89	75
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	40	91	67	2	118	10	1.18	0.94	2	10.38	-0.28	97	94
Joseph	47	89	68	9	125	53	1.46	1.18	4	20.71	-3.86	84	144
La Grande	43	93	69	2	138	12	0.28	0.07	2	12.58	-4.63	73	102
Union	43	95	69	4	138	29	1.02	0.81	2	16.14	2.64	120	121
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	52	98	74	2	168	9	0.07	0.06	1	8.34	-1.20	87	78
Rome	44	105	74	6	167	36	0.10	-0.04	2	7.18	-0.96	88	76

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Sunday, September 1, 2002.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Oregon Crop Weather 21-03  
Kevin Young, Math Statistician

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
NATIONAL AG STATISTICS  
PERMIT NO. G-38

Oregon Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
1735 Federal Bldg., 1220 SW 3rd  
Portland, Oregon 97204